13. (previously presented) The face mask of Claim 9, in which the ferroelectric material is selected from the group consisting of perovskites, tungsten bronzes, bismuth oxide layered materials, and pyrochlores.

14. (previously presented) The face mask of Claim 13, in which the ferroelectric material is barium titanate.

15. (previously presented) The face mask of Claim 9, in which the multicomponent fiber is a bicomponent spunbond fiber.

16. (previously presented) The face mask of Claim 9, in which the multicomponent fiber is a bicomponent meltblown.

17-22. (cancelled)

23. (withdrawn) A method of preparing fibers containing particles of a ferroelectric material the method comprising:

destructuring the ferroelectric material in the presence of a liquid and a surfactant to give destructured particles, wherein the liquid is a solvent for the surfactant and the surfactant is adapted to stabilize the destructured particles against agglomeration;

forming a blend of the stabilized, destructured ferroelectric material particles and a thermoplastic polymer;

melting the blend of the stabilized. destructured ferroelectric material particles and a thermoplastic polymer; and

melt extruding the molten blend to form fibers;

in which the particles of a ferroelectric material are present at a level of from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight, based on the weight of the fiber.

24-49. (cancelled)

50. (previously presented) A face mask comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic polymer fibers wherein said thermoplastic polymer fibers have ferroelectric material dispersed therein and further wherein

said fibers have been exposed to an electric field in order to reorient the spontaneous polarization of the ferroelectric material.

51-54. (cancelled)

55. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 50 wherein said ferroelectric material comprises from about 0.01% to about 50% by weight of said fibers.

56. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 55 wherein said thermoplastic polymer comprises a
polyolefin.

57. (previously presented) The face mask material of claim 55 wherein said ferroelectric material comprises from about 0.1% to about 30% by weight of said fibers.

58. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 57 wherein said thermoplastic polymer comprises a propylene polymer.

59. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 57 wherein said ferroelectric material comprises a perovskite.

60. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 58 wherein said ferroelectric material comprises a
perovskite.

61. (currently amended) The face mask of claim ~~59~~ 58 wherein said ferroelectric material is selected from the group consisting of barium titanate, lead titanate and solid solutions thereof.

62. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 50 wherein said ferroelectric material is selected from the group consisting of tungsten bronzes, bismuth oxides and pyrochlores.

63. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 57 wherein said fibers comprise a polyolefin and have a diameter between 0.1 and about 10 micrometers.

64. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 5 wherein said nonwoven web comprises a meltblown fiber web.

65. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 57 wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond fiber web.

66. (previously presented) The face mask of claim 63 wherein said ferroelectric material has a longest
dimension less than about 10 micrometers.

67. (not entered) A face mask comprising a nonwoven web of fibers comprising a polyolefin and from about 0.01 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of barium titanate particles based on the weight of the fibers, wherein said barium titanate particles comprise destructurized barium titanate particles and wherein said fibers have been exposed to an electric field in order to reorient the spontaneous polarization of the barium titanate particles.

68. (not entered) The face mask of Claim 67 wherein said polyolefin is a polypropylene.

69. (not entered) The face mask of Claim 67 wherein said fibers comprise from about 0.5 weight percent to about 5 weight percent of barium titanate particles based on the weight of the fibers.

70. (not entered) The face mask of Claim 67 wherein said fibers further comprise a comprise a surfactant adapted to stabilize the barium titanate particles against agglomeration.

Should any questions arise with regard to this application the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (770) 587-8620. Applicants respectfully

request that the Examiner contact Christos Kyriakou at (770) 587-8620 to discuss any pending rejections and to set up an interview to discuss pending rejections.

Please charge any prosecutional fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonid A. Turkevich et al.

By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Christos S. Kyriakou, hereby certify that on October 6, 2003 this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Attention: Office of Petitions; Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: _____

Christos S. Kyriakou